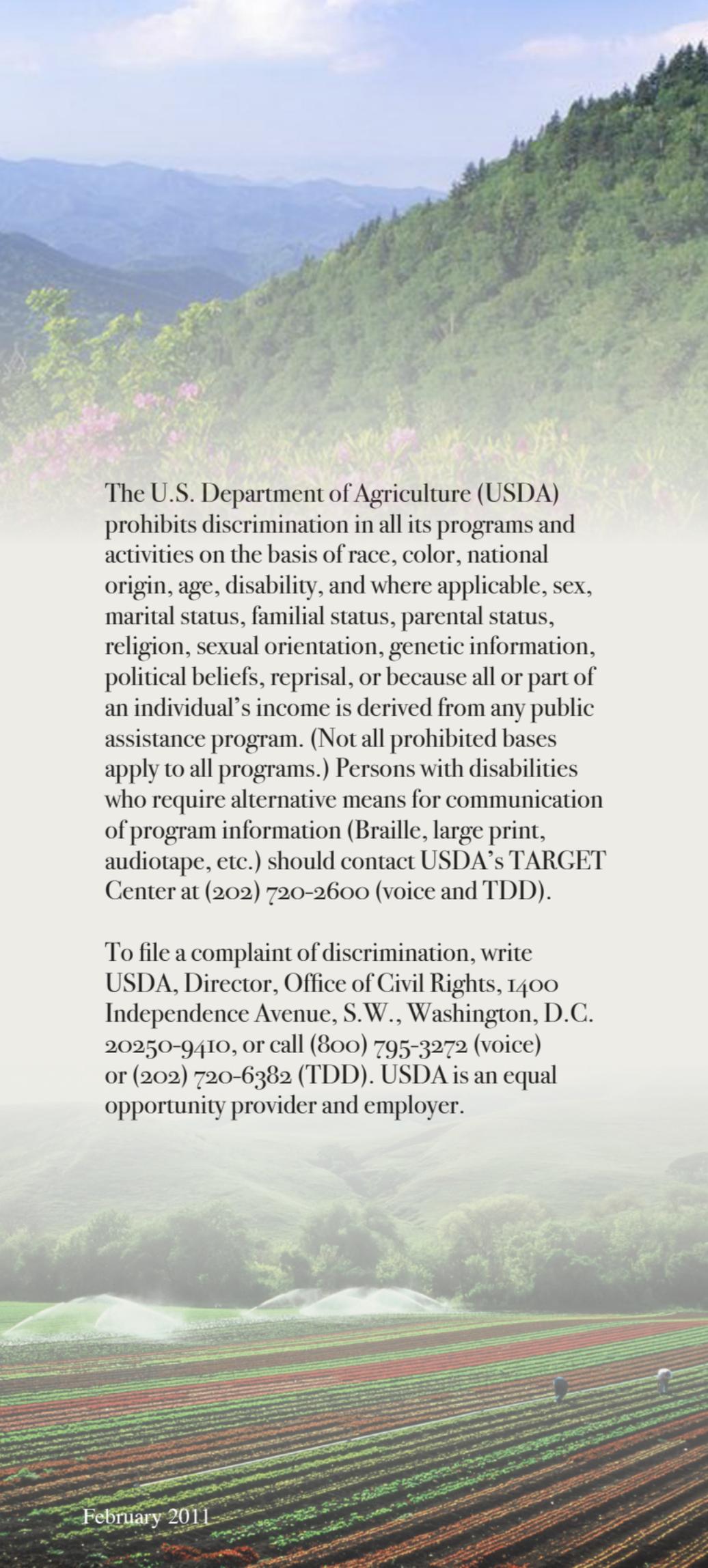




Consensus Statement on Sustainability

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is committed to working with partners and stakeholders toward sustainability of diverse agricultural, forest and range systems. USDA seeks to balance the goals of: 1) satisfying human needs; 2) enhancing environmental quality, the resource base, and ecosystem services; 3) sustaining the economic viability of agriculture; and 4) enhancing the quality of life for farmers, ranchers, forest managers, workers and society as a whole. USDA integrates these goals into its policies and programs, particularly through interagency collaboration, partnership and outreach at both domestic and international levels.

USDA encourages the development and adoption of place- and scale- appropriate management, production, distribution, and information systems that advance continuous integrated progress toward all of these goals across landscapes, supply chains, markets and communities. USDA also supports the principles of “reduce, reuse, and recycle” in relation to efficient product handling, processing, transportation, packaging, trade, consumption and waste management.



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